Newborn Screening Program

Goals:
Detect rare, inherited disorders in Arizona newborns and provide follow-up services to save lives and improve quality of life.

Program Components:
The Office accomplishes these goals by contracting for laboratory analyses, providing adequate follow-up for abnormal results, providing education for parents and healthcare providers, and monitoring the quality of data.

Each newborn can be screened in two ways. First, blood spot screening detects 28 disorders. Second, all birthing hospitals can screen for hearing loss. Blood spot specimens are analyzed by the Office's contracted laboratory and data from each hospital's hearing screening equipment is transmitted to the Office for evaluation.

Funding
Funding for the Office of Newborn Screening comes from monies collected as fees from the blood spot screening.

Target Audience:
Every baby born in Arizona

Why is this Program Needed?
While most babies are healthy when they are born, a few look healthy but have a rare health problem. Approximately 300 newborns each year in Arizona have an inherited disorder that could be identified through screening. Hearing loss is the most common of these disorders. Newborn screening helps to identify those healthy looking babies with disorders before they develop the symptoms of the disorders, such as organ damage, developmental delay, mental retardation or death. Although they cannot be cured, the disorders can be treated.

What has the Program Achieved?
The Arizona Office of Newborn Screening screens newborns for a panel of 29 disorders recommended nationally by the American College of Medical Genetics, March of Dimes, American Academy of Pediatrics, and federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

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